

REMARKS

1. Reconsideration and further prosecution of the above-identified application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and discussion that follows. Claims 1-118 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-118 have been subjected to a restriction requirement. The Examiner asserts that claims 1-95 are part of a Group I that are drawn to a trade secret accounting system, classified in class 705, subclass 35 and claims 96-118 are part of a Group II that are drawn to a method and apparatus for protecting a trade secret, classified in class 705, subclass 1. The Examiner asserts that Groups I and II are distinct because "Claims 1-95 are drawn to a trade secret accounting system and claims 96-118 are drawn to a method and apparatus for protecting a trade secret.

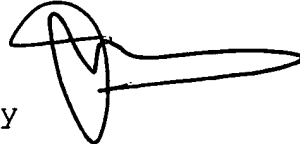
2. With regard to the restriction, the Examiner fails to provide a basis for the restriction other than to re-label the claims and to arbitrarily assign the re-labeled claims to different classes. In this regard, it is believed that the restriction requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Alternatively, claims 1-95 are elected, with traverse. Using the Examiner's terminology, the elected species is the trade secret accounting system. It is believed that claims 1-95 read on the elected species.

3. Allowance of claims 1-118, as now presented, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a

telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jon P. Christensen', written over a horizontal line.

By
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